

**Maine HICKRC**  
**RFP 01 for**  
**Health Information Connectivity-Knowledge Rural Consortium**  
**(HICKRC)**

The following questions and responses are being posted for the RFP identified above.

Question	Response
1. Do you have any specific requirements or locations where you want Internet 2 Access?	There are no specific requirements or locations for Internet 2 Access.
2. Do you plan to implement and install any of your own Networking equipment for the Wide Area Network or are you relying on the Service Provider for that functionality?	We do not plan to install or implement our own Networking equipment for WAN. The Service Provider will provide that function.
3. Do you plan on having any centralized locations (i.e. Customer HUB sites) that provide services to the remote locations or is this to be built as an Any to Any (ELAN) solution?	We do not have any HUBs; services to remote locations will be ELAN.
4. Will this RFP be awarded in an "All or None" manner, or in other words will ALL sites noted need to be afforded connectivity options in order for the overall award to be granted?	A bidder does not have to bid on all sites; yet the RFP contemplates that all sites are to be served. Bidders that bid "umbrella" service may be viewed as more fully meeting the RFP request.
5. HCF states that awards are required to go to the most cost-effective provider, however the RFP states on page 4, subsection b. at bottom that award will not necessarily go to the lowest bid. Are there any missing sections to this as the subsection seems out of place.	The reference that the bid may not necessarily go to the lowest bid is wording from the general RFP language which is intended to follow the requirement that cost equals 25% of the score.
6. Is any private line, site to site connectivity	No private lines are required, yet bidders may

required for any locations?	submit bids that contemplate private lines.
7. Are any HUB sites being contemplated?	See response to No. 3.
8. Page 11, section 6, item 1 indicates the need for vendors to provide 4 increments of internet bandwidth. What 4 bandwidth speeds would be preferred by the HICKRC membership?	The HICKRC membership prefers the highest bandwidth speed at the lowest cost. Bidders may identify the speeds and costs that they can provide service as there are no set required speeds.
9. Will all 59 sites be awarded at one time? If not, what is the expected timeframe to add them onto the network?	The HICKRC intends to award the bid for all 59 sites at the same time. The HICKRC believes that sites will roll-on at various times over the first six months or so, depending on the service and the capability of the site to implement services. Please note that the six month estimate is an estimate.
<b>10. Reference: B. Submission of Proposals #2</b>	
Comment: Format for the Proposal states that bids are to be submitted in printed and electronic formats with RFP Identifier. So are you requesting 7 printed copies (1 original and 6 copies) and a searchable CD?	Yes.
<b>11. Reference: Pg 4</b>	
Comment: Can you please provide an expected award date?	We estimate an award date range of September 1, 2014 – September 30, 2014, depending on the number and types of bids received.

